

Special Olympics

“Giving Back to the Game”

As the regular season ends for most officials, a special season begins for some. Wrong! Many of you may think that I'm referring to the State High School Championships, the NCAA tournament or maybe even the NIT. The special season is more significant than the others. It is the season for basketball officials to give back to the Special Olympics. Many area tournaments are gearing up, enabling special athletes to compete in skill competitions, 3-on-3 tournaments and some full-court 5-on-5 action. Veterans and first-year officials alike are needed to support our special athletes as they participate. One cannot imagine the joy when a Special Olympian makes a basket for the first time. Special Olympics is not about winning and losing, but is



about participating. During IAABO President Jack Doyle's acceptance speech, he requested that all officials volunteer on the local and state level to officiate the yearly tournaments that are held throughout the country. As part of the training process in Massachusetts, new officials must volunteer to officiate Special Olympics basketball games as part of their floor test. So what are you waiting for, pick up the phone and contact the person responsible for Special Olympics events in your area. If

you are not able to locate the point of contact in your area, please contact the IAABO Office for assistance. Support Special Olympics; you'll forever remember the rewarding experience.

